

Serial No.: 10/036,628

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1-20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously presented) A method for balancing workload in a Voice-over-Internet Protocol (VoIP) system that has at least one VoIP client and plural VoIP proxy servers that share workload data therebetween, one of the VoIP proxy servers being a primary VoIP proxy server for the VoIP client, comprising:

a) the primary VoIP proxy server receiving a call connection request from the VoIP client;

b) the primary VoIP proxy server determining if the primary VoIP proxy server has a workload exceeding a predefined threshold and, if not, the primary VoIP proxy server connecting with the client to complete the call, else:

i) selecting a delegate VoIP proxy server using the sharing workload data, the delegate VoIP proxy server having a lower workload than at least one other of the plural VoIP proxy servers; and

ii) forwarding the request to the selected delegate VoIP proxy server; and

c) the delegate VoIP proxy server carrying out b) in place of the primary VoIP proxy server until one of the plural VoIP proxy servers connects with the client to complete the call, the connecting by the delegate VoIP proxy server including transmitting the identity of the delegate VoIP proxy server to the VoIP client.

22. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 21, wherein the VoIP proxy servers share workload data by spontaneously passing the workload data to each other.

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23. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 21, wherein the VoIP proxy server processing the request in b) polls the other VoIP proxy servers for workload data.

24. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 21, wherein each VoIP proxy server continuously collects workload data from each other VoIP proxy server.

25. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 21, wherein the call connection request and the connection between VoIP client and VoIP proxy server are not managed by a dedicated load balancing server.

26. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 21, wherein the identity of the delegate VoIP proxy server connecting with the VoIP client is transmitted from the delegate VoIP proxy server to the VoIP client in a logically direct manner.

27. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 21, wherein the identity of the delegate VoIP proxy server connecting with the VoIP client is transmitted from the delegate VoIP proxy server to the VoIP client through a reverse order of the VoIP proxy server or servers that forwarded with the request.

28. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 21, further comprising exchanging voice and video data between the VoIP client and the connected VoIP proxy server.